

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 13-43 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1-12 have been canceled, and claims 13-43 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Drawings

In Section 1 of the Office Action (page 2), the Examiner has objected to Figure 2 for including reference “52” without mentioning the reference in the description. The Specification has been amended to include a description of reference “52”, thereby obviating the objection.

In Section 2 of the Office Action (page 2), the Examiner has objected to Figure 6 for failing to include a legend such as –Prior Art–. Figure 6 has been amended to include legend –Prior Art–. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

In Section 4 of the Office Action (page 2), the Examiner has objected to the Abstract. A new Abstract has been proposed. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

In Section 5 of the Office Action (page 3), the Examiner has objected to the disclosure for informalities. The Specification has been appropriately amended to obviate the objections.

Objections to Claims 1-12

In Sections 6 and 7 of the Office Action (page 4), the Examiner has objected to claims 1-12 for informalities. Claims 1-12 have been canceled, thereby obviating the objections.

§112 Rejection of Claims 1-12

In Section 8 of the Office Action (page 5), the Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite. Claims 1-12 have been canceled, thereby obviating the objections.

§102 Rejection of Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-12

In Section 5 of the Office Action (page 6), the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-8, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hamner *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,951; hereinafter referred to as “Hamner”). This rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-12.

§103 Rejection of Claim 2

In Section 6 of the Office Action (page 9), the Examiner has rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamner, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Mitchell *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,304; hereinafter referred to as “Mitchell”). This rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-12.

§103 Rejection of Claim 9

In Section 7 of the Office Action (page 10), the Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamner, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Lea *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,202; hereinafter referred to as “Lea”). This rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-12.

Newly-added claims 13-43

Claims 13-43 have been added. Independent claims 13 and 28 describe method and apparatus for controlling network devices via a man-machine interface. For example, the steps of method claim 13 include:

“determining a connection of one or more devices to a network;

determining availability of one or more multimedia services available via one or more devices connected to the network; and

displaying a hierarchical view representative of said one or more devices connected to the network and said one or more available multimedia services.”

However, Hamner, Mitchell, and Lea, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest determining a connection of one or more devices to a network, determining availability of one or more multimedia services available via one or more devices connected to the network, and displaying a hierarchical view representative of one or more devices connected to the network and one or more available multimedia services.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is submitted that claims 13 and 28 are not made unpatentable by the teachings of Hamner, Mitchell, and Lea. Furthermore, since claims 14-27 and 29-43 depend from claims 13 and 28, respectively, claims 14-27 and 29-43 should also be allowable over the combination of Hamner, Mitchel, and Lea. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claims 13-43 be allowed over the cited prior art references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 13-43 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments